

MARVEL

703

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ALAN DAVIS

MARK FARMER

JORDIE BELLAIRE

IRMA KNIIVILA

RATED T+

CAPTAIN AMERICA



1940! As the world teetered on the brink of global war, frail Steve Rogers entered a secret laboratory and was transformed into the American Super-Soldier! Over a century later, the Super-Soldier Serum extracted from Captain America's remains and given to the people became the foundation for a healthy, utopian society. But for Steve Rogers' descendant, state historian Jack Rogers, paradise has a catch: for some reason, the serum made his son sick, and the government refused to release information that could tell him why.



Jack broke into the White House to steal data from the president's right-hand man, General Pursur, but instead of finding a cure for his son, he stumbled across a terrifying conspiracy: the Super-Soldier Serum is actually turning humans into sleeper agents for the Kree Empire, under Pursur's supervision. The information made Jack a fugitive, and his only hope was a relic of his ancestor's past buried deep beneath Washington, D.C. But when he went looking for Captain America, he found the Red Skull instead!

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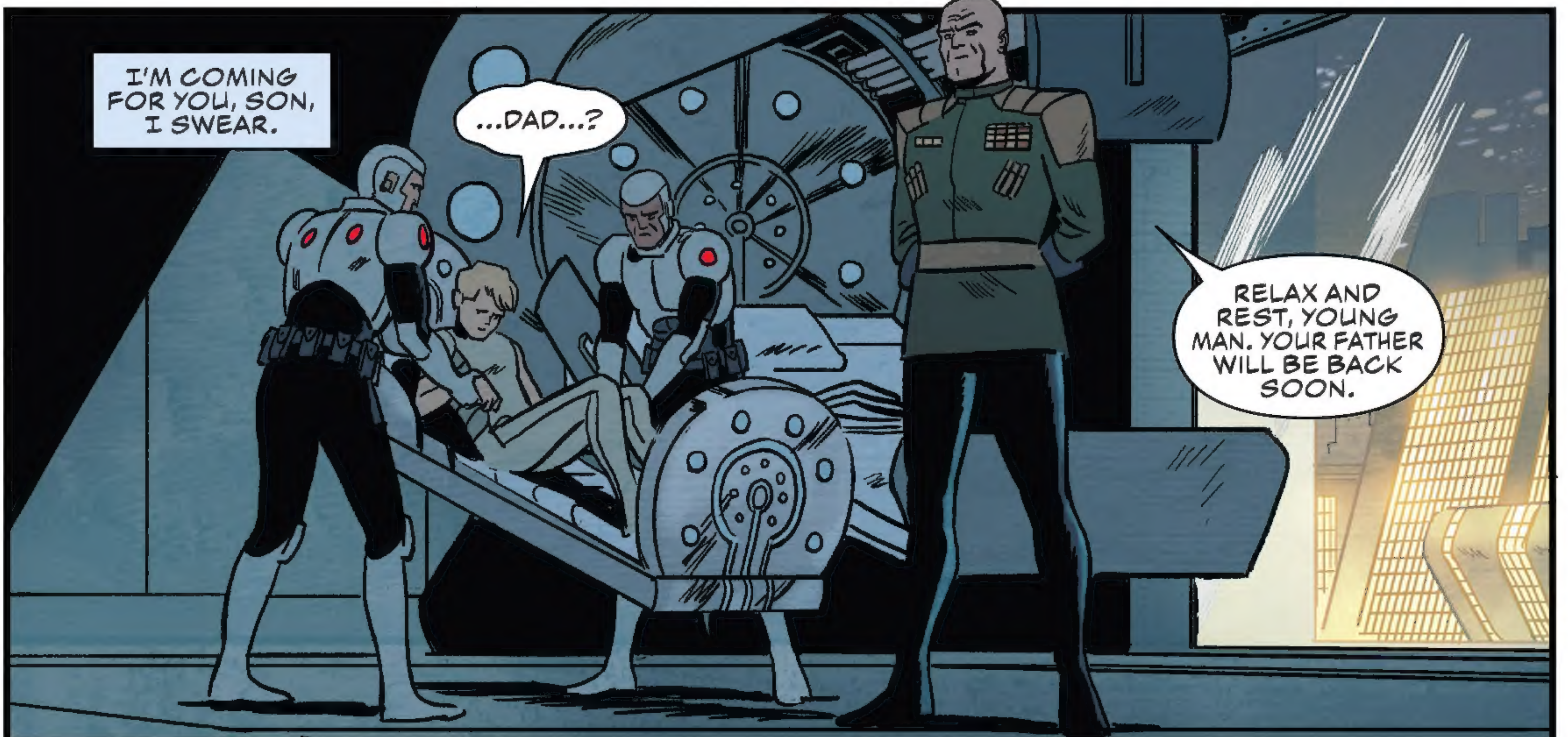
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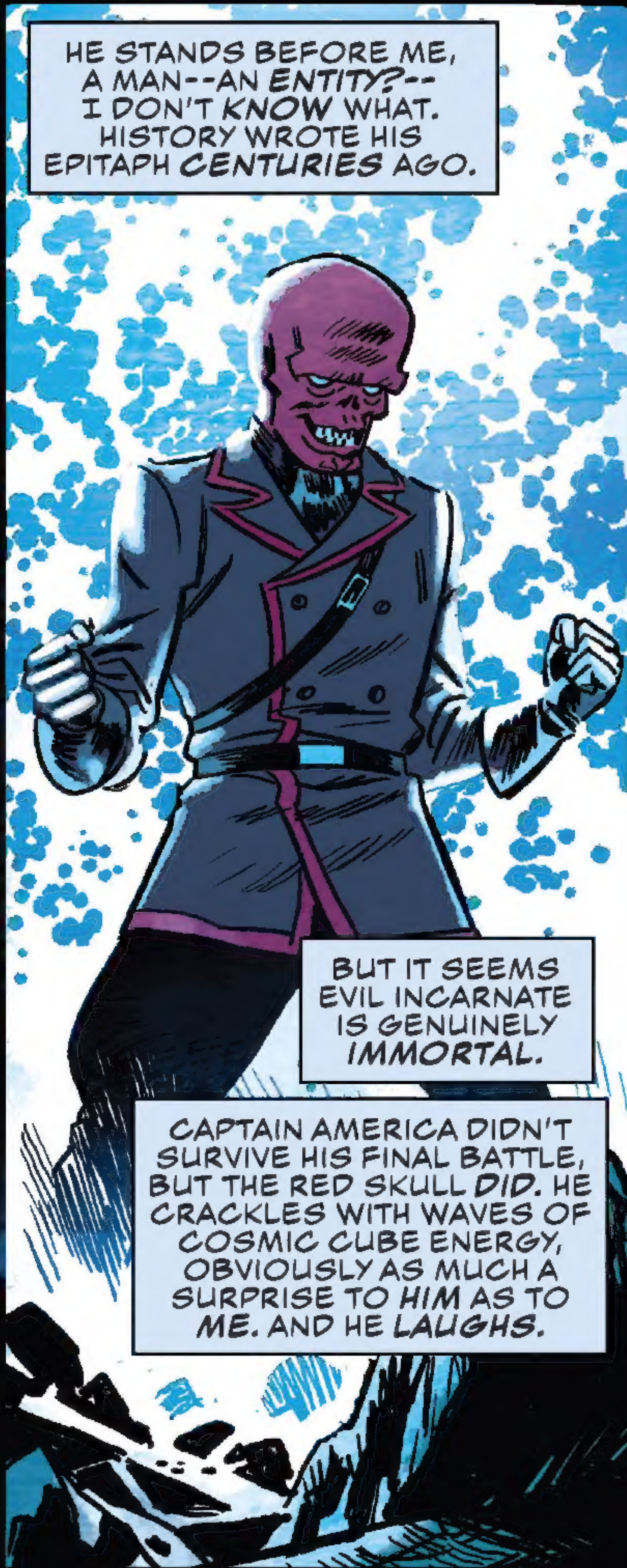
CAPTAIN AMERICA CREATED BY JOE SIMON & JACK KIRBY





THE NIGHTMARES
HAVE BECOME
NESTING DOLLS.

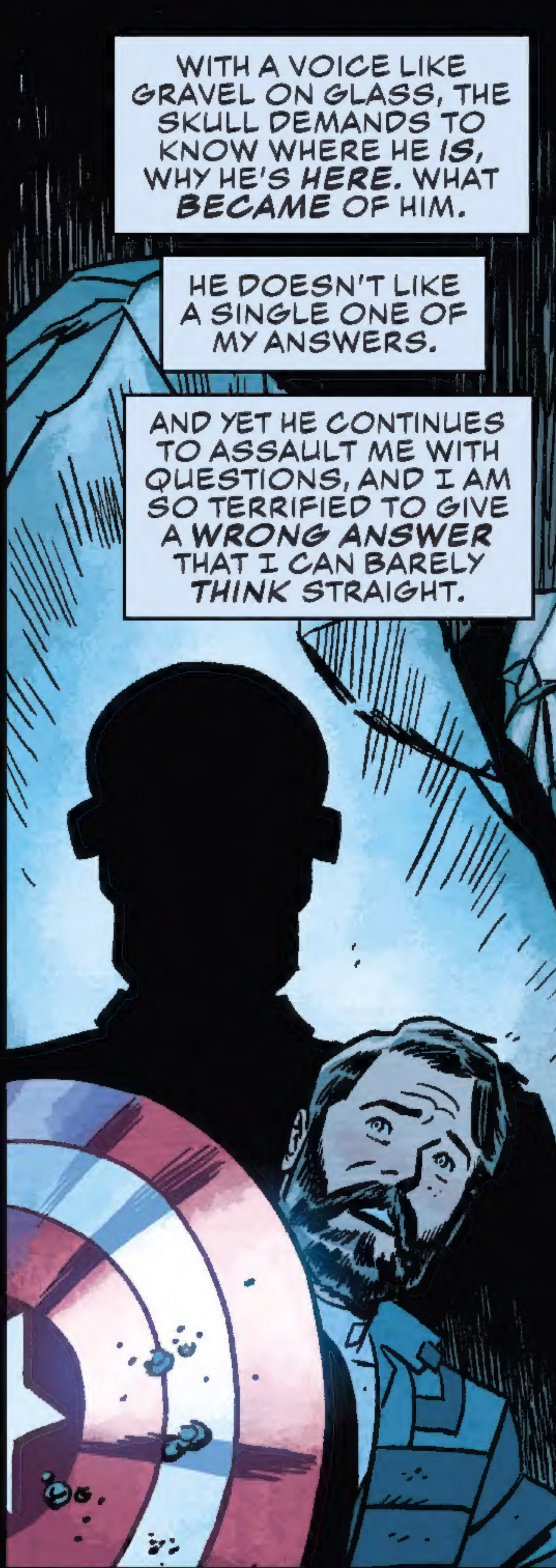
EACH ONE IS
MORE TERRIFYING
THAN THE LAST.



HE STANDS BEFORE ME,
A MAN--AN ENTITY?--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT.
HISTORY WROTE HIS
EPITAPH CENTURIES AGO.

BUT IT SEEMS
EVIL INCARNATE
IS GENUINELY
IMMORTAL.

CAPTAIN AMERICA DIDN'T
SURVIVE HIS FINAL BATTLE,
BUT THE RED SKULL DID. HE
CRACKLES WITH WAVES OF
COSMIC CUBE ENERGY,
OBVIOUSLY AS MUCH A
SURPRISE TO HIM AS TO
ME. AND HE LAUGHS.



WITH A VOICE LIKE
GRAVEL ON GLASS, THE
SKULL DEMANDS TO
KNOW WHERE HE IS,
WHY HE'S HERE. WHAT
BECAME OF HIM.

HE DOESN'T LIKE
A SINGLE ONE OF
MY ANSWERS.

AND YET HE CONTINUES
TO ASSAULT ME WITH
QUESTIONS, AND I AM
SO TERRIFIED TO GIVE
A **WRONG ANSWER**
THAT I CAN BARELY
THINK STRAIGHT.



ROGERS.

Y-YES?



ROGERS.



UNDERNEATH
THAT DISGUISE?
I HAD HOPED AS
MUCH...

...OLD
FRIEND.

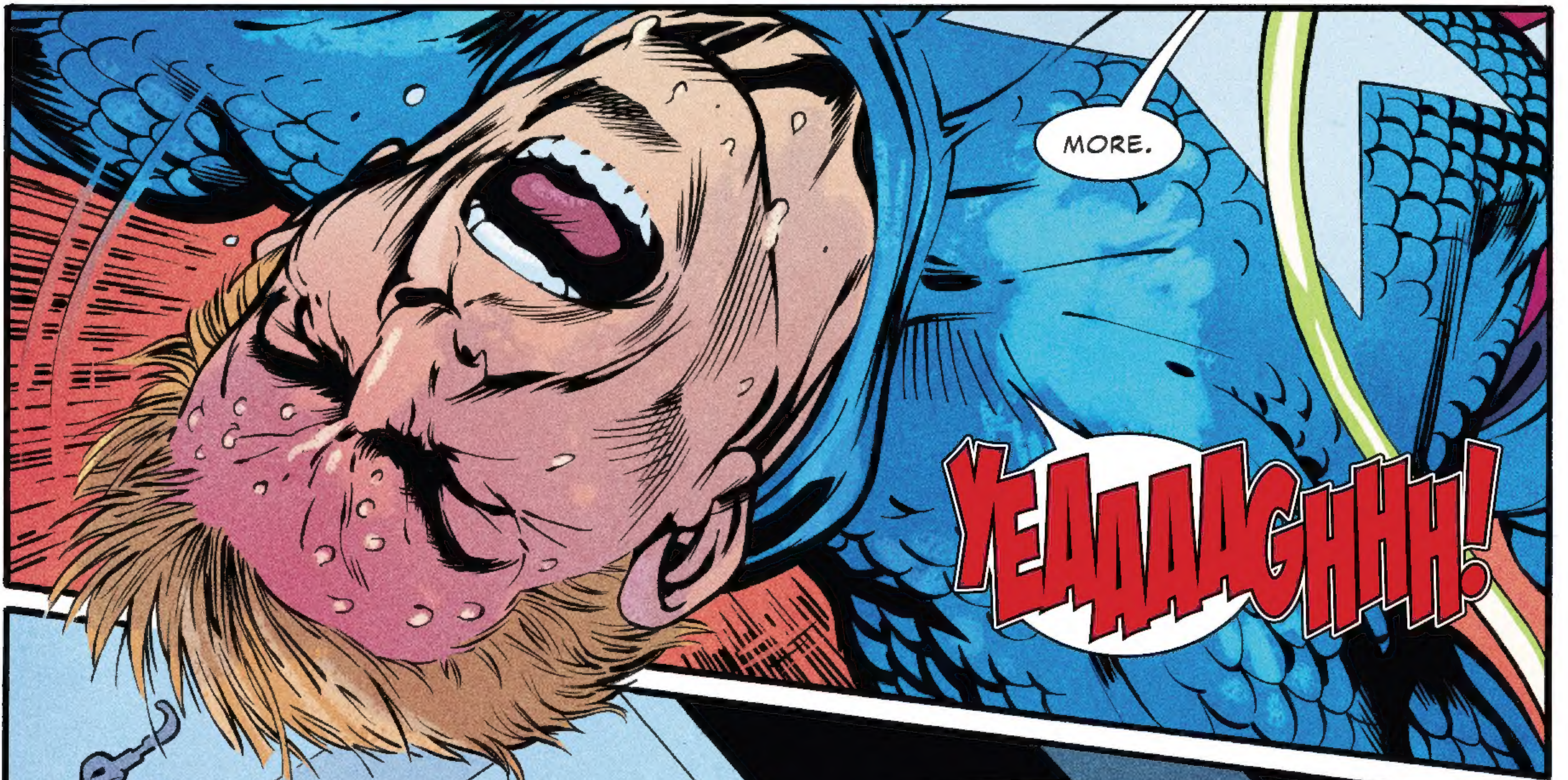
THWAM!

WHAT?

NO! HE CAUGHT ME
OFF-GUARD! HE WAS
TALKING TO HIMSELF,
NOT TO ME--AND THE
WAY I ANSWERED--

--NOW HE
THINKS I'M
STEVE
ROGERS!

AAAARGH



MORE.

YEAAGHHH!



NNNGGGGGHHH!

PROLONGED
TACHYCARDIA. HIS
HEARTBEAT IS A STEADY
HUM AND YET HE'S STILL
ALIVE. THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

NO. IT
SIMPLY MEANS
WE'VE FOUND
THE SWEET
SPOT.



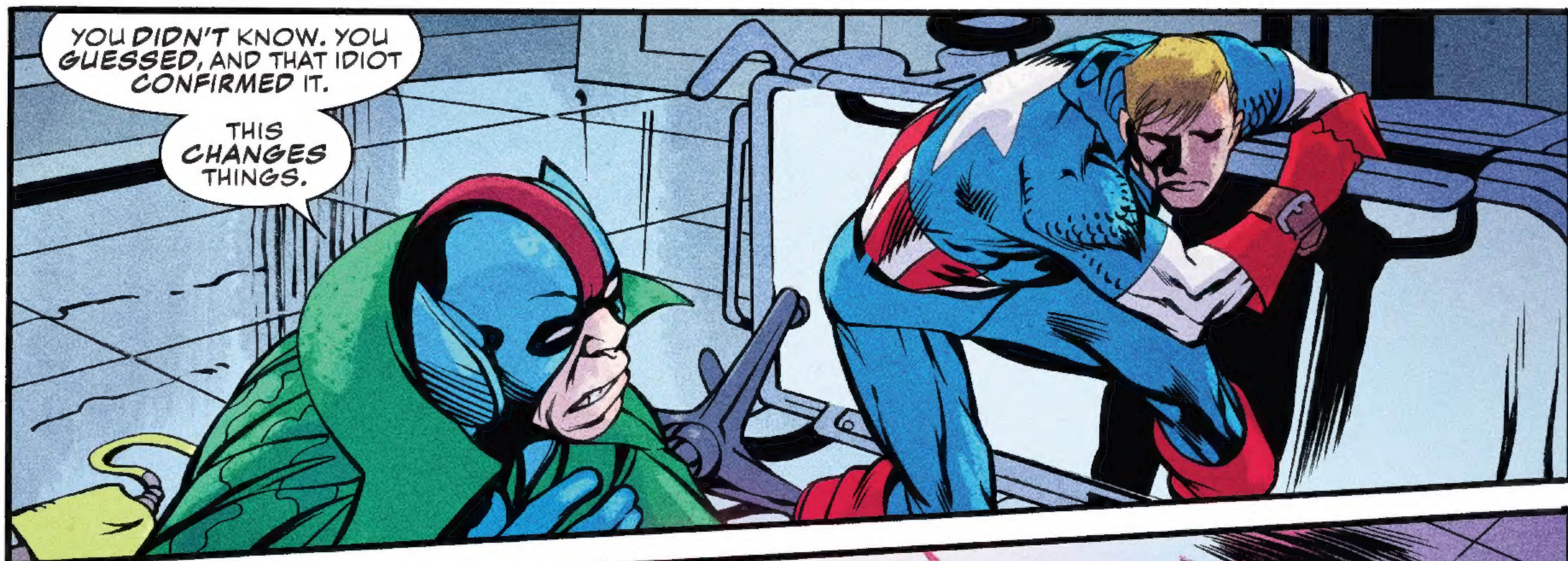
GNNNG!
GNNNNHHH!

THIS AMOUNT
OF POISON WOULD
KILL ANY OTHER MAN.
BUT ONE INJECTED WITH
SUPER-SOLDIER
SERUM...

...THAT MAN
CAN BE HELD AT
THE VERY BRINK
OF DEATH
INDEFINITELY...









GOOD THING
YOUR BUDDY THE
BLACK KNIGHT GAVE
YOU LOSERS UP!
MADE YOU EASY
TO FIND!

PIETRO!
IS HE ALL
RIGHT?

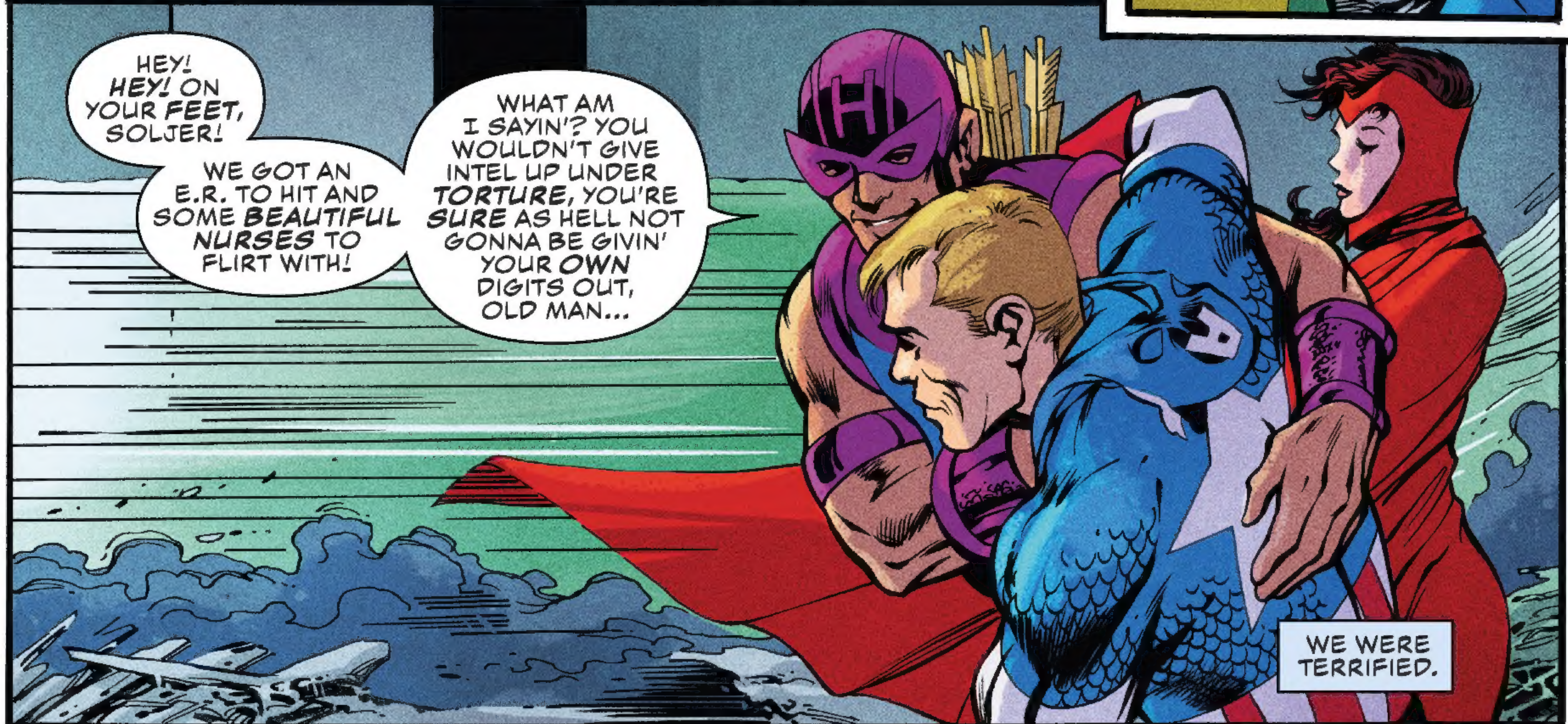


I'LL RUSH
HIM TO A
HOSPITAL--

NO!
LET--

HNNNGGH!

--LET HAWKEYE
AND SCARLET WITCH
TAKE ME! YOU HAVE
TO SEARCH...ALL THE...
CRUISE HARBORS!
NOW! FIND THE
BOMB!



HEY!
HEY! ON
YOUR FEET,
SOLJER!

WE GOT AN
E.R. TO HIT AND
SOME BEAUTIFUL
NURSES TO
FLIRT WITH!

WHAT AM
I SAYIN'? YOU
WOULDN'T GIVE
INTEL UP UNDER
TORTURE, YOU'RE
SURE AS HELL NOT
GONNA BE GIVIN'
YOUR OWN
DIGITS OUT,
OLD MAN...

WE WERE
TERRIFIED.

DARLA AND I WERE NERVOUS ABOUT HAVING CHILDREN. WE WERE AFRAID OF HOW IT WOULD DISRUPT OUR LIVES.

THE INSTANT WE LAID EYES ON STEVEN, WE KICKED OURSELVES FOR NOT HAVING HAD HIM SOONER.

AFTER DARLA PASSED, MY LOVE FOR HER REFUSED TO EXIST WITHOUT DIRECTION.

IT BECAME A FORCE MULTIPLIER.



THE AFFECTION I HAD FOR OUR BOY INCREASED A HUNDREDFOLD.

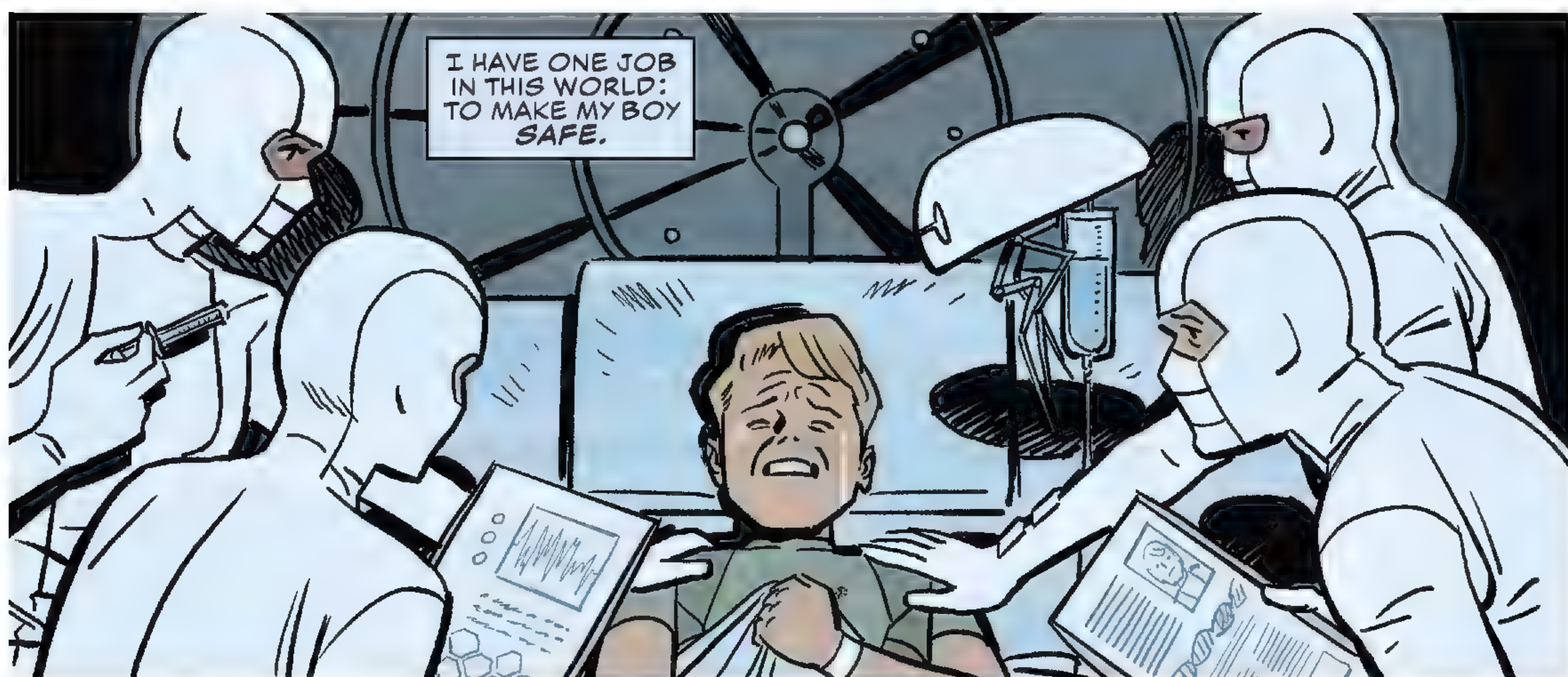


HE IS MY LIGHT.

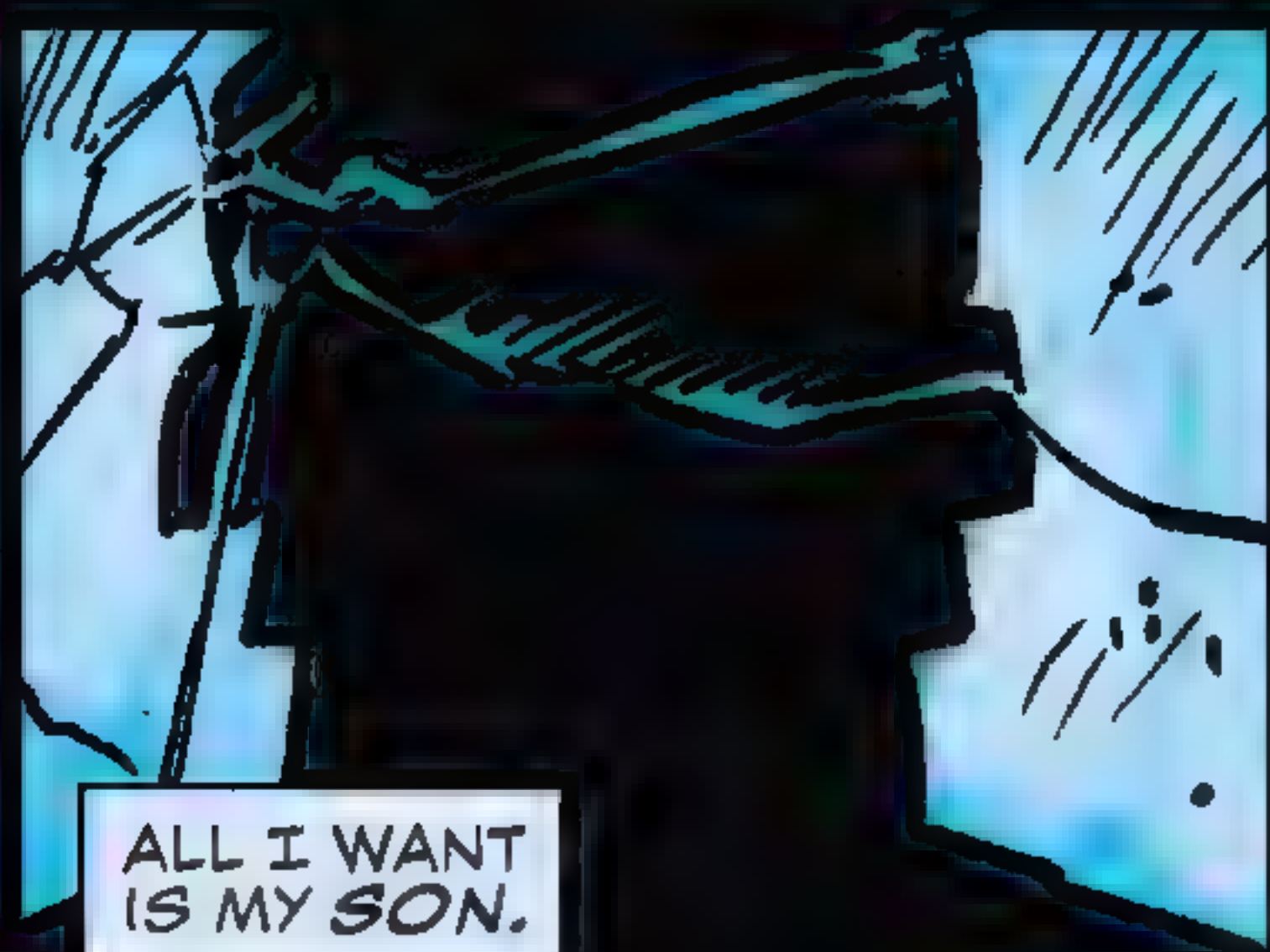


HE'S THE REASON I GET UP IN THE MORNING AND THE GIFT I HOLD IN IMMEASURABLE GRATITUDE EACH EVENING.









ALL I WANT
IS MY SON.

THINK.

CAUSE AND
EFFECT.

THINK.



THOSE OF
US WHO ARE
HISTORIANS ARE
CHOSEN FOR A
REASON.

WE HAVE AN APTITUDE
FOR STITCHING HISTORY'S
HOWS TO ITS WHYS. A
GIFT FOR SEEING WHICH
HISTORICAL EVENTS,
HOWEVER INSIGNIFICANT
AT THE TIME, LED TO
WHICH RESULTS.

AT HEART, JACK,
YOU'RE A HISTORIAN.
THAT MAKES YOU A
STRATEGIST. THERE HAS
TO BE A WAY TO TURN ALL
THIS AROUND. THINK.

SOME WAY.
ANY WAY AT ALL
TO STOP--



THE
GOVERNMENT.
IT'S NOT
REALLY OURS
ANYMORE.

IT'S BEEN
INFILTRATED
BY THE KREE. I
CAN HAND THEIR
GOVERNMENT
TO YOU.

OR I
CAN SIMPLY
TAKE IT.



YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW LONG
YOUR ENERGIES
WILL LAST. WITH MY
WAY, IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

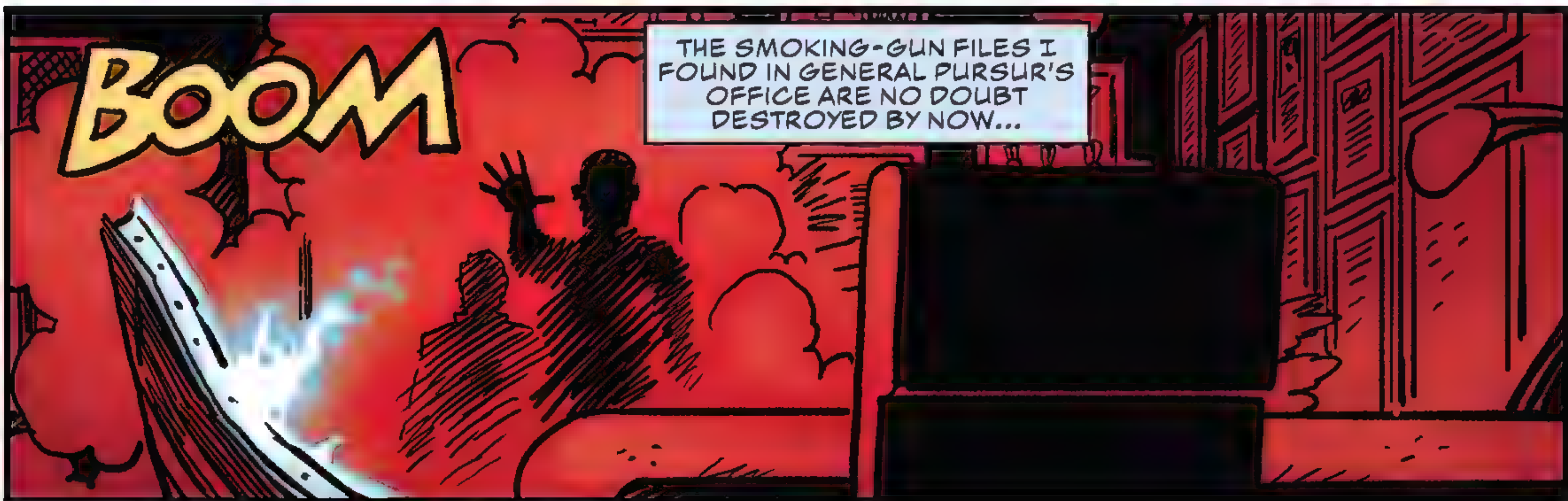
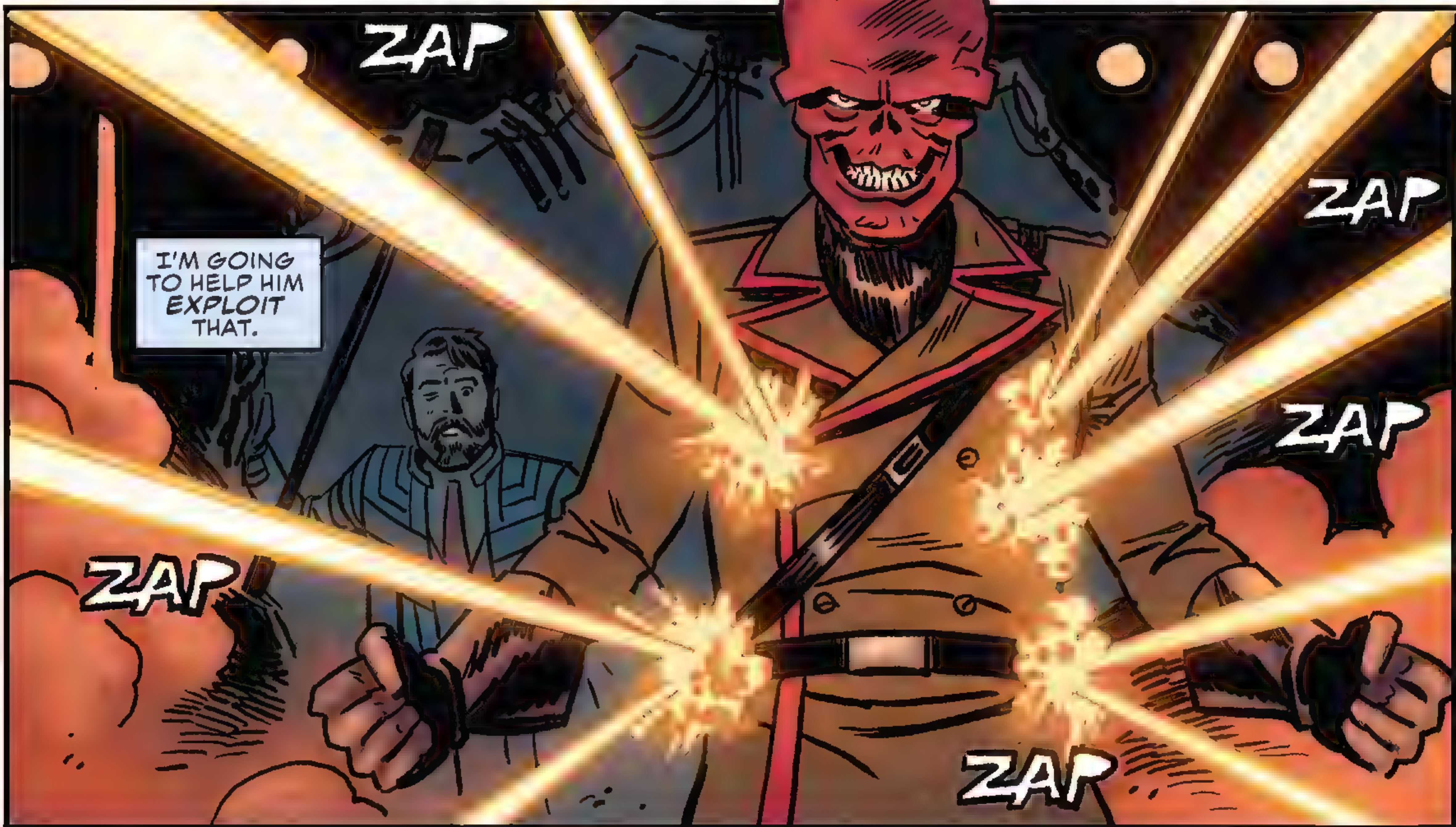
WITH MY
WAY, YOU WON'T
NEED THAT POWER.
I CAN DO THIS
FOR YOU.

ALL I
ASK IS THAT
YOU SAVE MY
CHILD.



...
WE
SHALL
SEE.

COME
ALONG.

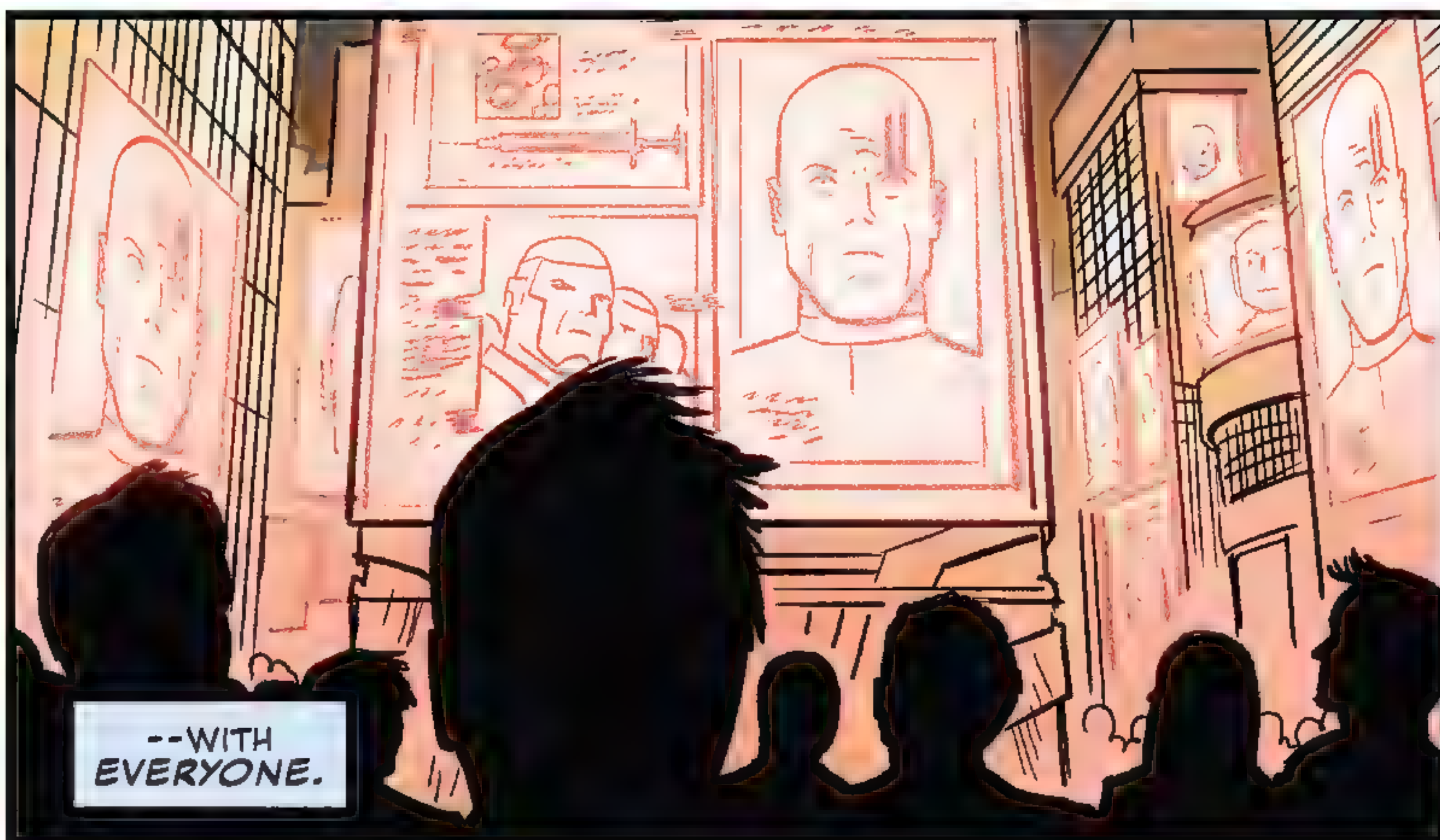




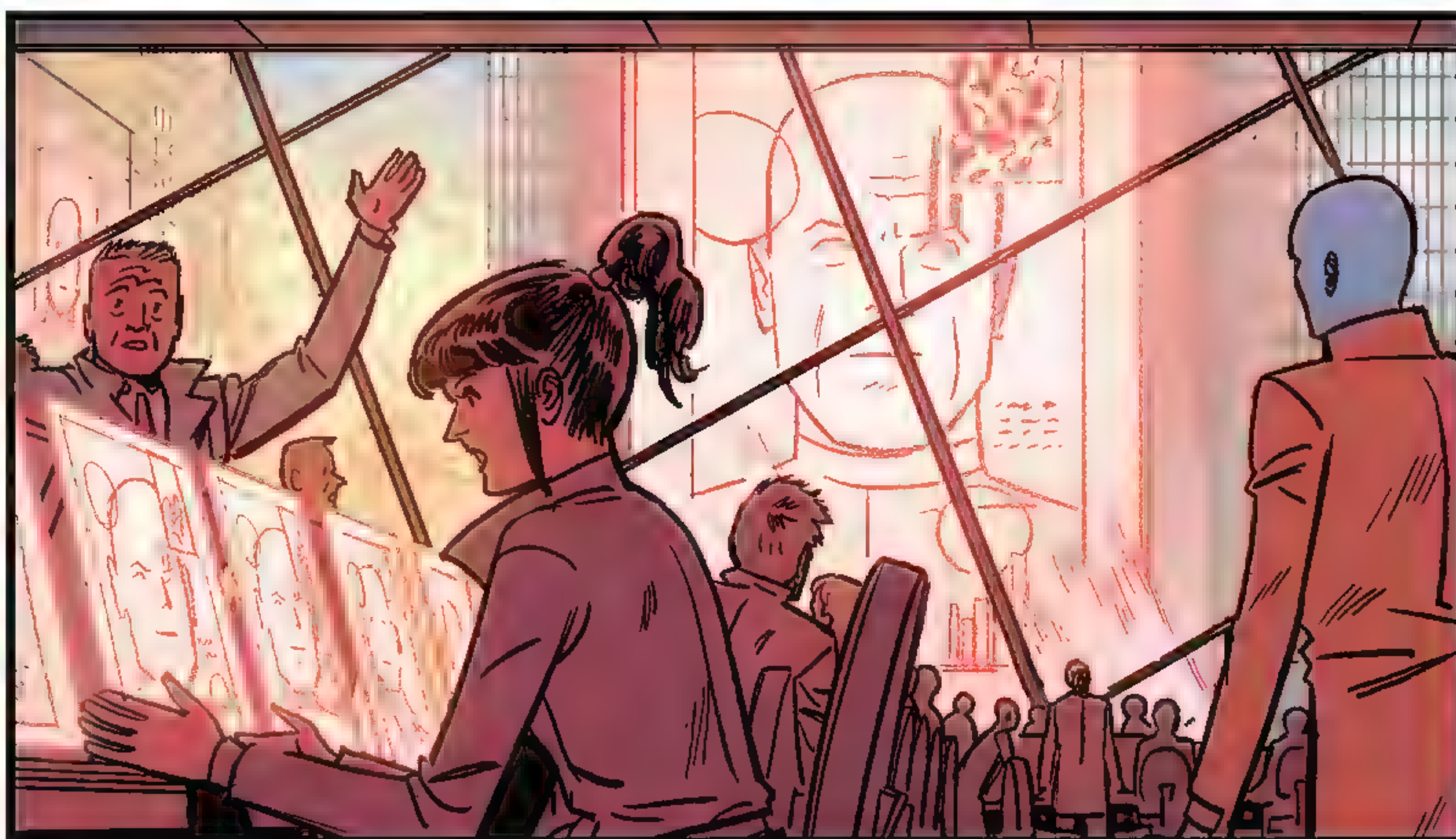
...BUT WHAT I SAW
IN THEM IS CHILD'S
PLAY TO RECALL
AND DISPLAY USING
THE TIMELENS.



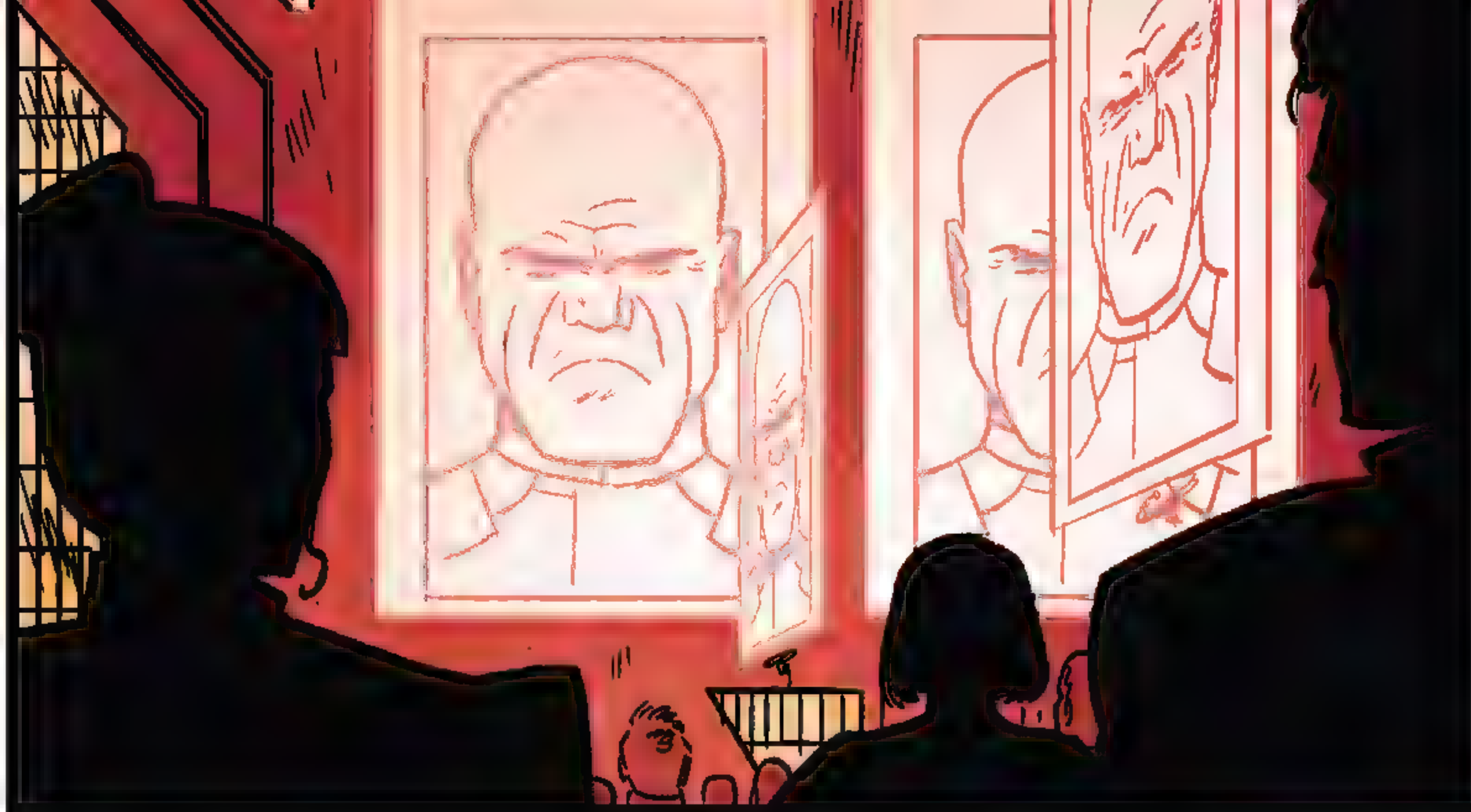
THE **SKULL** THEN USES
HIS POWER TO SHARE
THAT INTEL--THAT EACH
AND EVERY AMERICAN
HAS BEEN UNWITTINGLY
TRANSFORMED INTO A
SLEEPER AGENT FOR
THE **KREE EMPIRE**--



--WITH
EVERYONE.



EVERYWHERE.



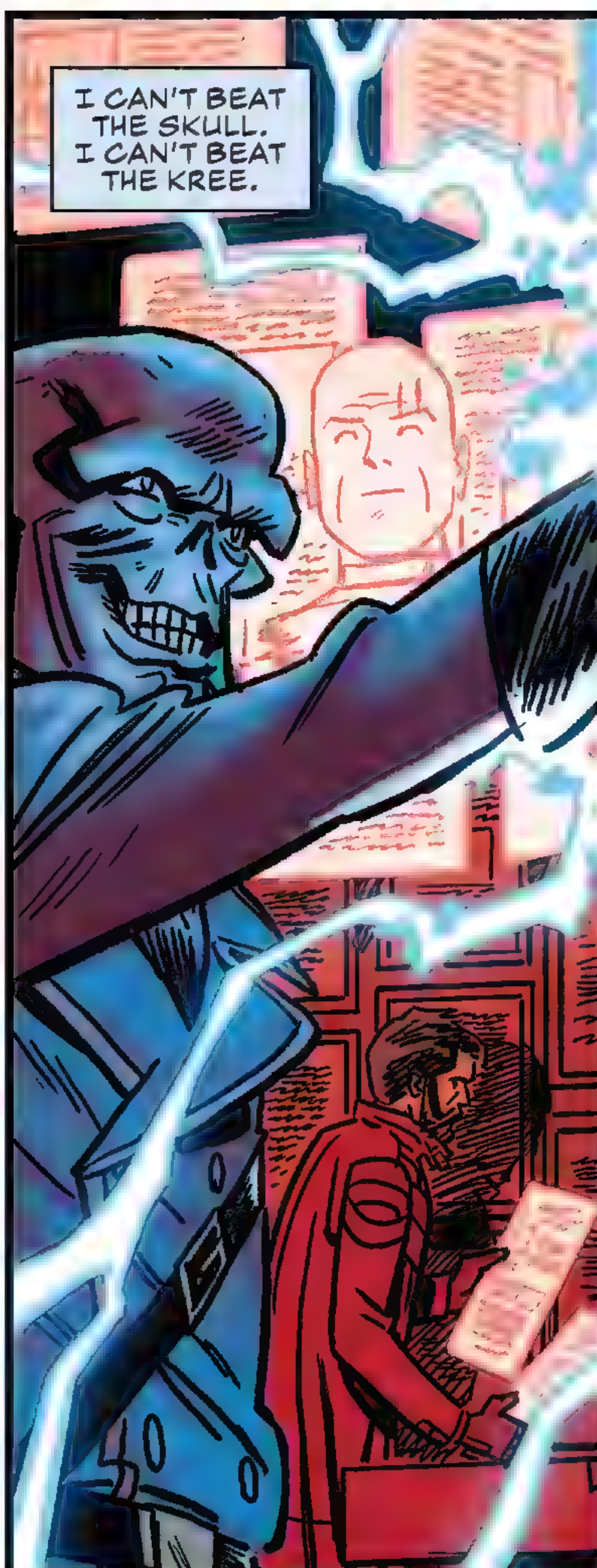
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE ENTIRE KREE CONSPIRACY GOES PUBLIC. AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE JUST AWAKENED TO THE TRUTH THAT THEY'VE BEEN BRED AS CANNON FODDER.

THE KREE CONSPIRATORS WILL BE LOSING THEIR MINDS AND SEEKING RETRIBUTION AGAINST THE SKULL AND ME.



IN 1948, THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE NATIONALIST PARTY OF KUOMINTANG WENT TO WAR IN PART THANKS TO RUSSIAN MANIPULATION.

THE "LET'S YOU AND HIM FIGHT SO I CAN ADVANCE" DOCTRINE.



I CAN'T BEAT THE SKULL. I CAN'T BEAT THE KREE.



SO I DO THE NEXT BEST THING:

STEVE ROGERS
AGE 14

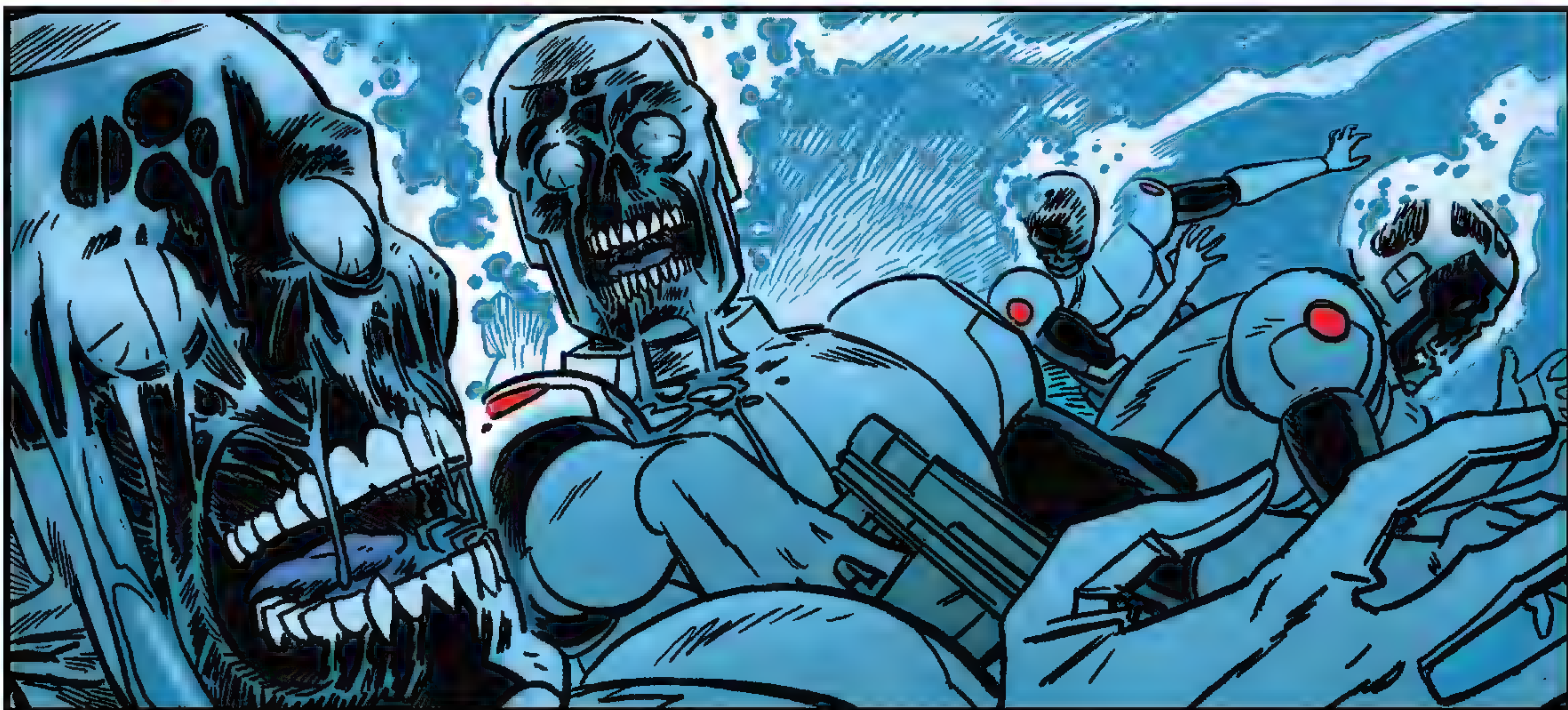
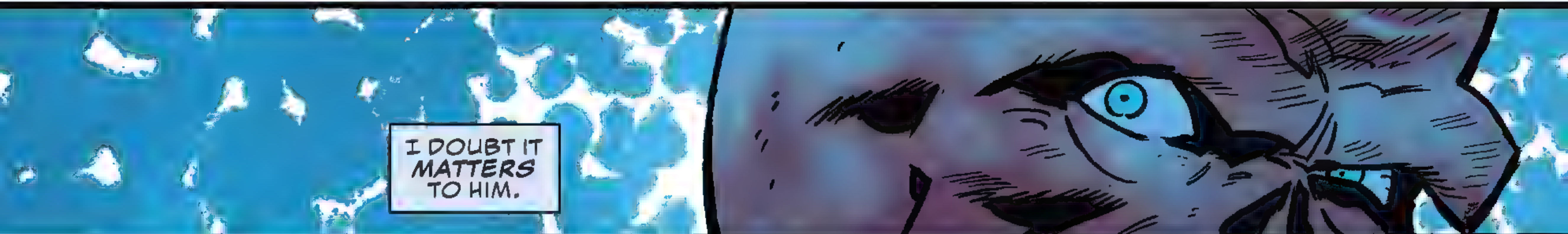
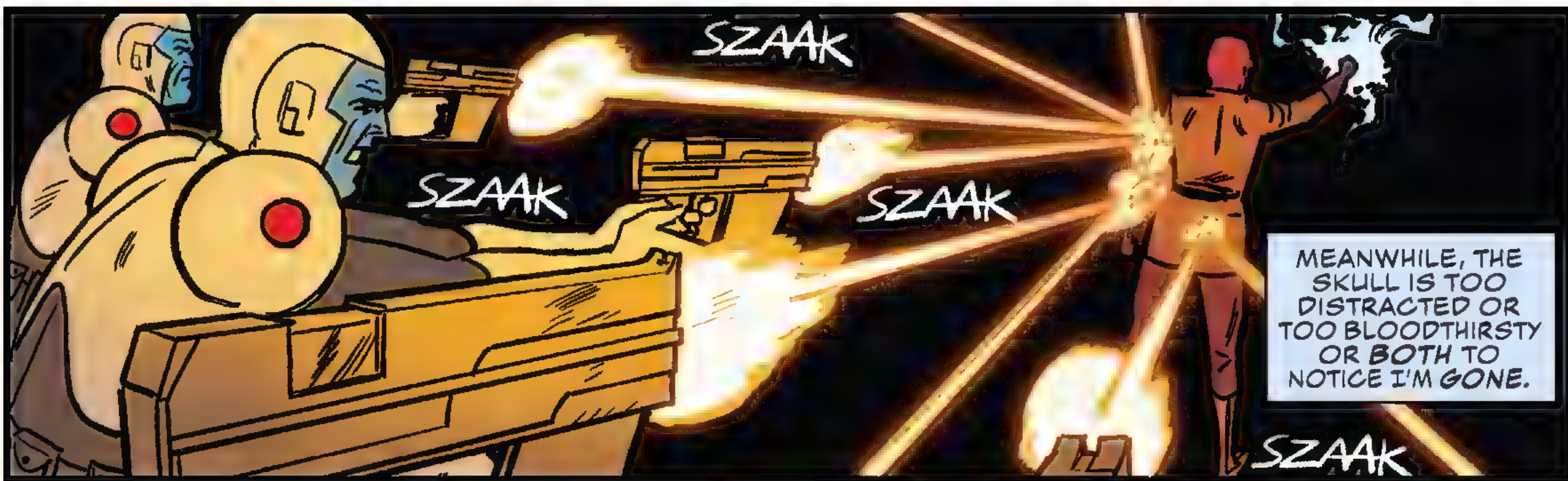
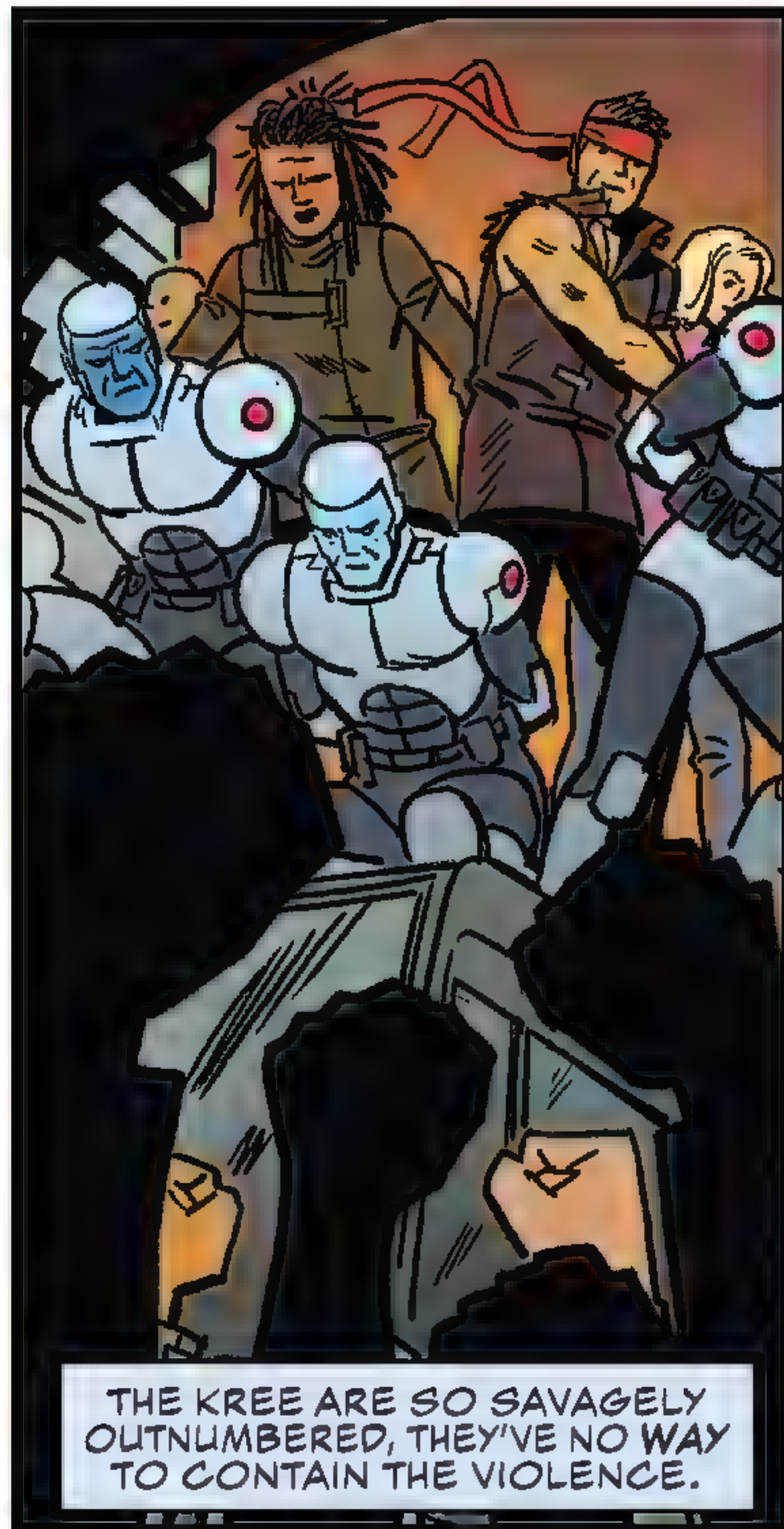
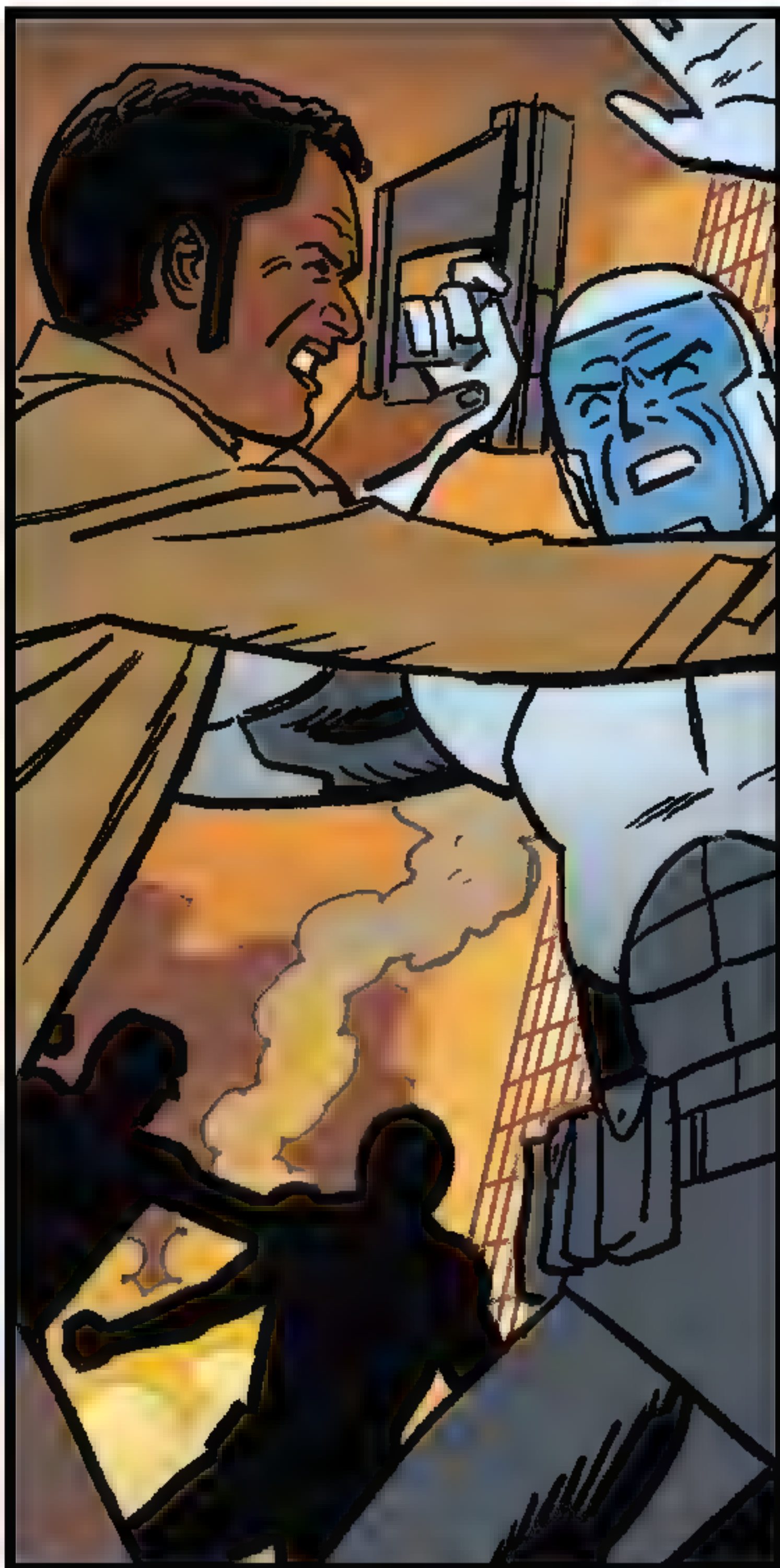
KREE GENE
RECESSIVE

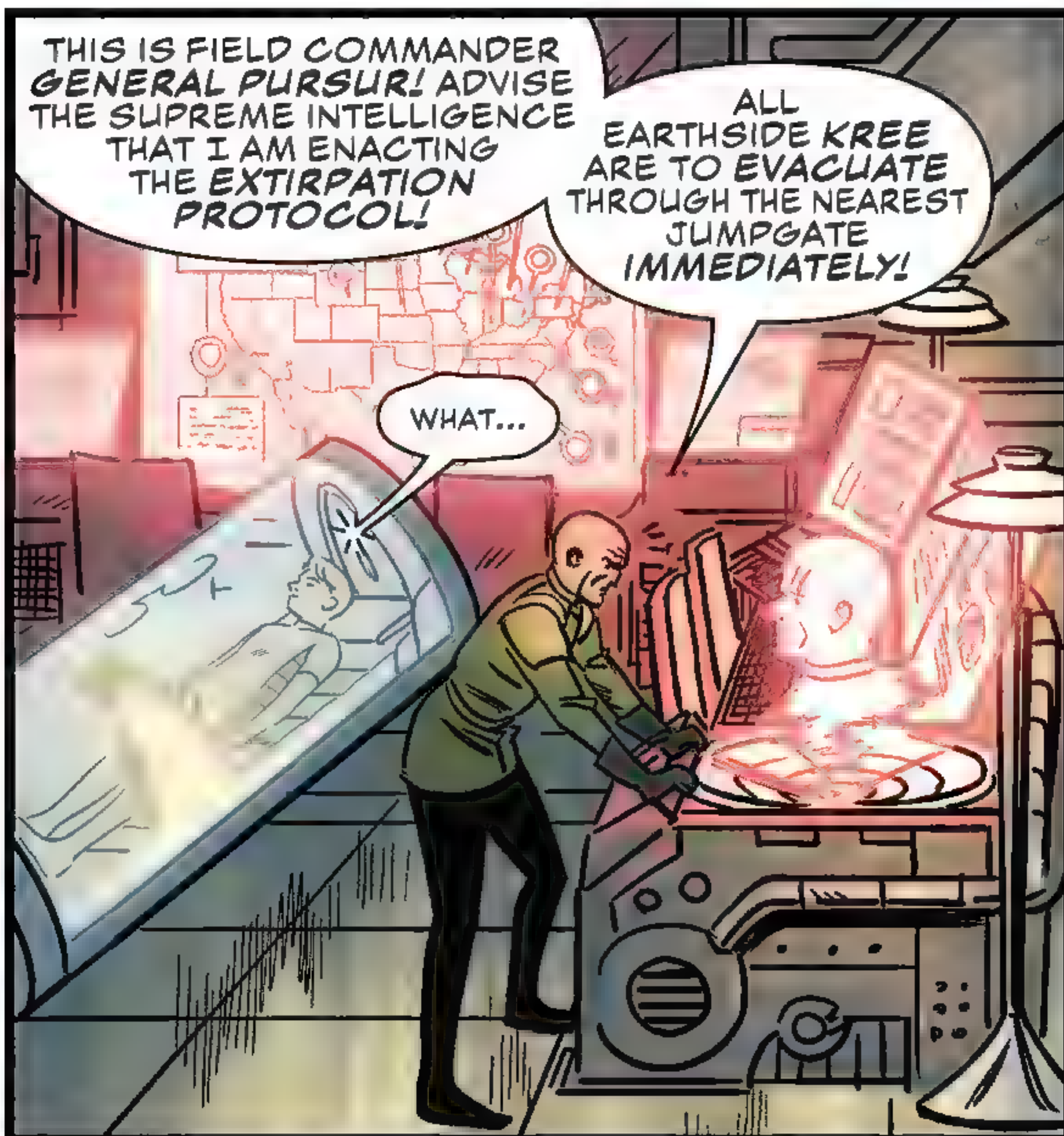
SYMPTOMS: CONVULSIONS, FEVER, FATIGUE, ANOREXIA, PARANOID, CHRONIC PAIN, LOSS OF WEIGHT, DISTINGUISHED APPEARANCE, DOUBLE VISION

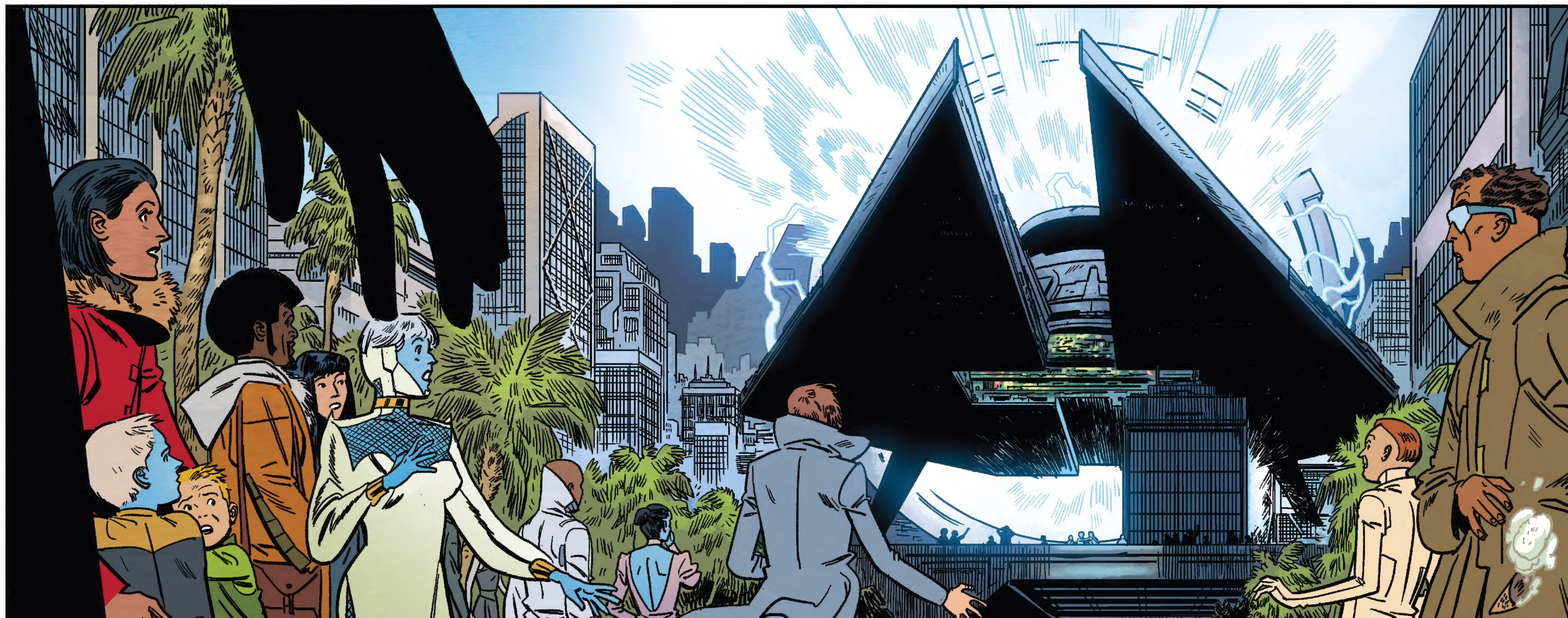
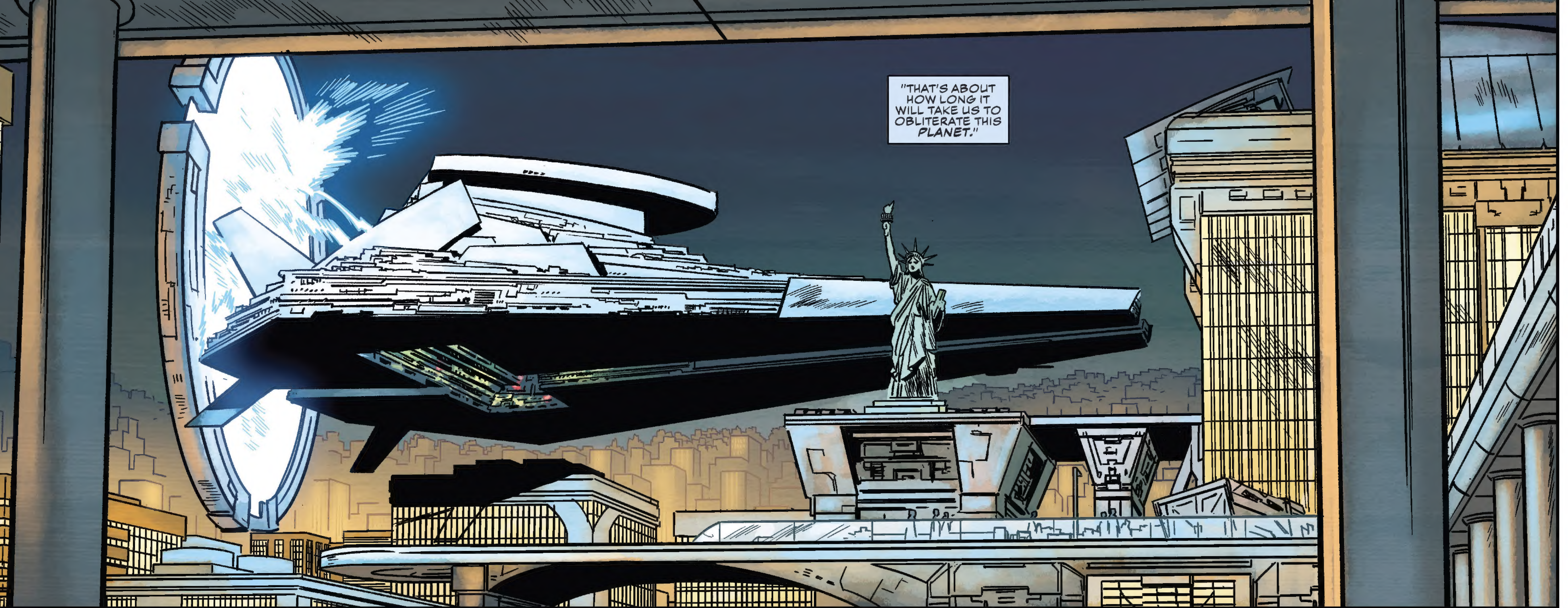


CLICK

I PIT THEM AGAINST ONE ANOTHER AND KEEP MY HEAD DOWN.









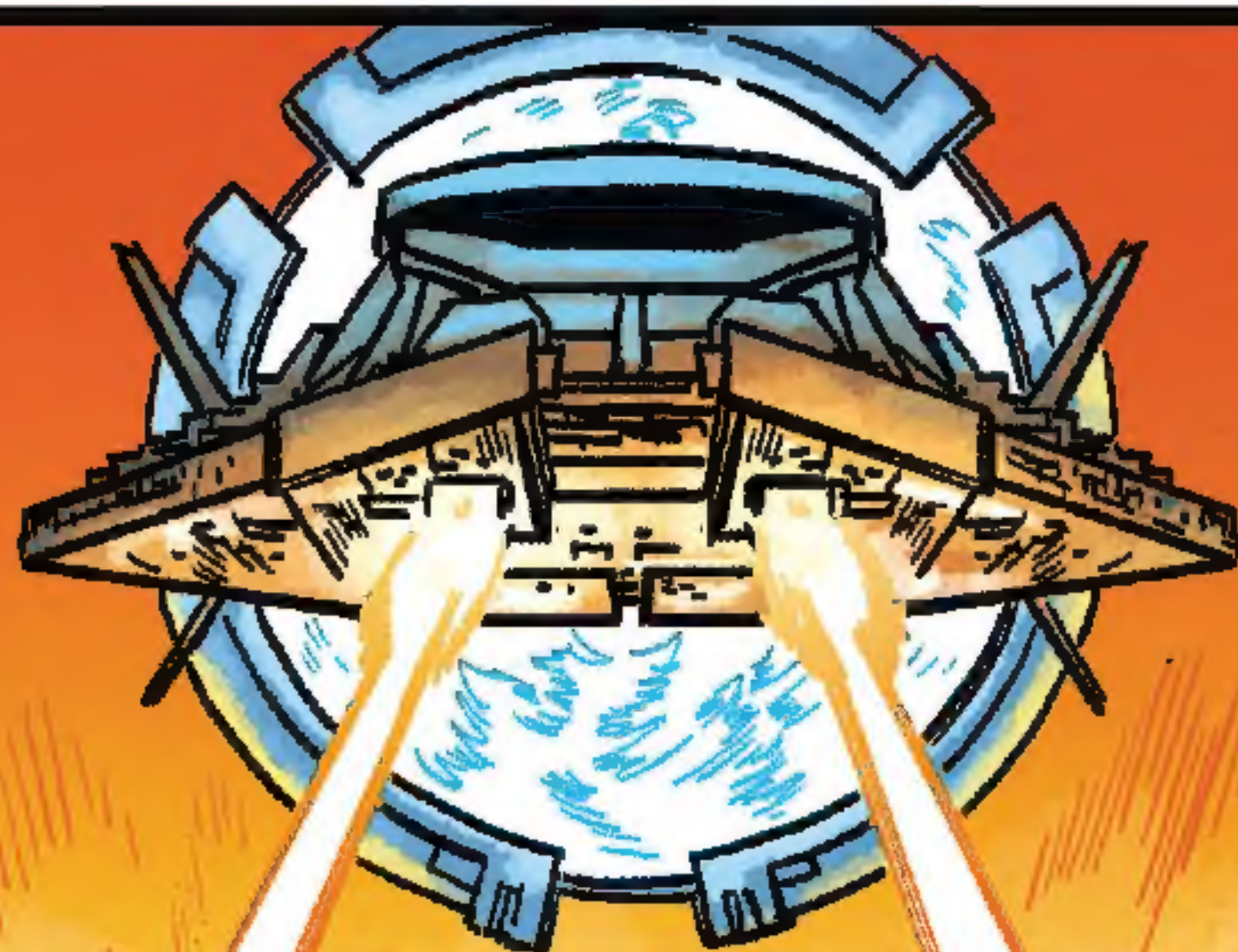
WE--WE'LL
FIGHT
YOU--!

NO. IN THE FIRST
PLACE, YOU'RE VASTLY
OUTNUMBERED. SECONDLY,
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
HOW TO FIGHT. WE
WERE GOING TO
RETRAIN YOU.



"BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE
UPSET OUR PLANS, WE
CAN'T RISK POTENTIAL
SOLDIERS OF YOUR
CALIBER FALLING INTO THE
HANDS OF A DERANGED
MANIAC, MUCH LESS
SOME OTHER RACE.

"NO. BY THIS TIME
TOMORROW, THE
EARTH WILL BE WIPED
CLEAN, AND WE'LL
START ALL OVER AGAIN
ELSEWHERE."



KA-BOOM



WE CAN
BEAT YOU.
MY SON CAN
BEAT
YOU.

WHAT'S
THAT?
THAT
WEAKLING?

HE'S
THE KEY,
PURSUE.

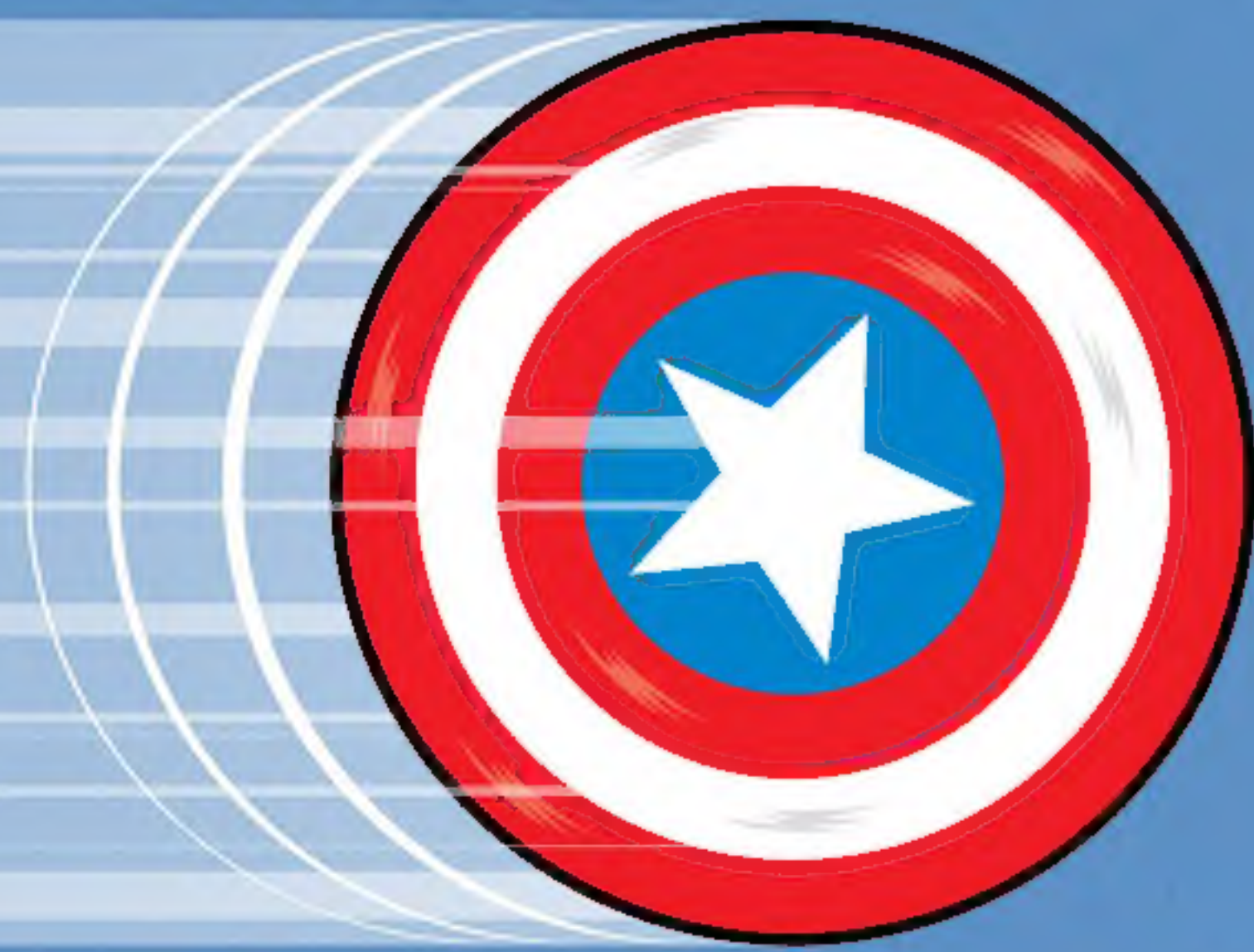


YOU'VE
BEEN HIDING
SOMETHING
ELSE.

AND
THAT'S WHAT'S
GOING TO
SAVE US.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

CAP'S CORNER



WHAT DOES CAPTAIN AMERICA MEAN TO YOU?

Growing up, I was introduced to Captain America when he was found frozen WAY back in AVENGERS #4. He had the coolest costume, and with his iconic shield and his fearless, hardworking, never-quit attitude, I was an instant fan.

He appealed to me on a real-man level. His best traits were attainable ideals and he epitomized "the Greatest Generation" like my dad, who was a Marine ace pilot during WWII.

I later stopped reading comics for decades, but when I had kids, I introduced them to the character for the same reasons I admired him, and enjoyed reading Mark Waid's and then Ed Brubaker's stories immensely.

Cap was always a good man with great real-world traits that could be embraced and followed. A brave, honest and respected patriot, he was also the perfect example of top physical and mental conditioning. This was not a fictional guy with absurdly unrealistic super-powers.

My young kids actually met a guy who perfectly portrayed him back in the early 2000s at a themed restaurant in Los Angeles called Marvel Mania. We would often make the trip from San Diego to visit with "Captain America," who was always the most shining, caring, heroic figure to our family that you could ever imagine.

The relationship developed to where we are all friends now, long after the restaurant closed and his acting gig ended. But friends still call him Cap! My kids are now grown up, he has young kids of his own and we all still stay in touch. Yeah, it's pretty cool that "Captain America" is a family friend!

Lastly, when the Marvel Studios movies came out, of course we loved them all, but the Cap trilogy, or any of the Avengers movies, have always been extra exciting for us. It's so wonderful to see this classic character getting shown to millions of people worldwide and creating legions of new admirers.

My wife and kids know I

especially love it, since Cap has been a part of my life for so long and is now riding a tremendous new wave of popularity.

Long Live Captain America!
Don Balch

NEXT: CAPTAIN AMERICA #704



DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

What does Cap mean to you? Send us emails at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark them "Okay to Print," or tweet us using the hashtags #CapLegacy and #OKtoprint for a chance to see your marvelous missives in future issues!

